

Amendments to the Description

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, lines 23-29 to page 17, line 1, with the following revised paragraph:

--In an embodiment, a Notch Ligand Cell Preparation comprises stromal cells obtained from mammals that lack functional M-CSF (e.g. as a result of a mutation in the M-CSF gene), that have been modified to express high levels of Notch Ligands of the Delta family. In a particular embodiment, a Notch Ligand Cell Preparation comprises OP9 cells (Kodama et al, 1994; Nakano et al, 1994; available from the RIKEN cell depository (<http://www.rtc.riken.go.jp/>)—that express Delta-like-1 or Delta-like-4. Specifically, a Notch Ligand Cell Preparation may comprise OP9 cells expressing Delta-like-1.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 52, lines 5-7, with the following revised paragraph:

-- 3. *OP9-DL1 cells*. OP9 cells are adherent cells cultured as monolayers. They were obtained from the RIKEN cell depository (<http://www.rtc.riken.go.jp/>). OP9-DL1 cells were prepared as described in Example 1.--